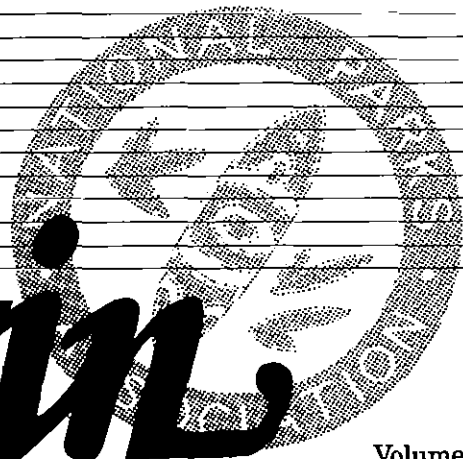


NPA Bulletin



Volume 31 number 4
December 1994

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (ACT) INCORPORATED



Fat cats and cockatoos

Myall's Heritage Trail

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Cover

Photo by Reg Alder

NPA work party in Orroral Valley

National Parks Association (ACT) Incorporated

Inaugurated 1960

Aims and objects of the Association

- Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery, natural features *and cultural heritage* in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.
- Interest in the provision of appropriate outdoor recreation areas.
- Stimulation of interest in, and appreciation and enjoyment of, such natural phenomena *and cultural heritage* by organised field outings, meetings or any other means.
- Cooperation with organisations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- Promotion of, and education for, ~~nature~~ conservation, and the planning of land-use to achieve conservation.

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Membership inquiries welcome

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Contribute to your *Bulletin*

Contributions of articles (news, descriptions or fiction), black-and-white photographs and line drawings are keenly sought for the *Bulletin*. Please label photographs with the name of the subject, the name of the photographer and the date. Leave contributions at the office or phone the editor, Roger Green, on (06) 247 0059. The editorial fax is (06) 249 7373.

Articles by contributors may not necessarily reflect Association opinion or objectives.

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Changes to constitution

—committee's proposal accepted

Small changes to the wording of NPA's aims and objects were put to the general meeting on 17 November. The changes, to include cultural heritage rather than just natural heritage, as put forward by the committee, had been circulated to members in the June *Bulletin*. An amendment to the committee's proposal, put forward by Joan Goodrum, was circulated in the same *Bulletin*. Joan's amendment emphasised that cultural heritage includes both Aboriginal and non-indigenous culture.

Len Haskew spoke for the committee's position noting that the change would bring the written aims in line with actual practice. Neville Esau spoke against the motion, giving philosophical and practical reasons—asking what sort of organisation do we want to be and perceived as being, stating that our strength came as an organisation focused on natural protected areas. He warned of the dangers of dissipating our energies too widely. Joan Goodrum spoke of the need to stress conservation of the cultures of both Aboriginal and non-indigenous culture.

After several members spoke for and against the motions, non-members were asked to move to the back of the room to make counting easier. The amendment was put to the vote and decisively lost, members perhaps being influenced by the 'no' case and the suggestion of tautology in the amendment, or perhaps Syd Comfort's eloquent support for the committee's deliberations.

The Committee's proposal, unamended, was then put to the meeting and passed by 33 members out of the 42 present, a 'yes' vote of just over the required 75 per cent of members attending the meeting.

The accepted new wording of the aims and objects appears, highlighted in *italic*, on page two of this *Bulletin*.

Annual report

The National Parks Association (ACT) Inc continues to play an important role in conservation issues both in the local area and nearby areas of New South Wales.

Our biggest social event of the year was the launch of *A Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT*. This pocket guide was a donation from long-time member Alastair Morrison and fills a need in the range of publications available for interpretation of the local environment.

Charmian Crimmins continues to be invaluable as our office manager. We welcomed a new research and project officer, Nicola Taws, in February and Nicki has quickly come to grips with NPA matters. We farewelled Anne Taylor from this position after four years of valued service.

The committee continues to meet monthly to monitor association directions, to discuss management procedures, to receive reports and to maintain links with sub-committees. Len Haskew has recorded minutes, organised speakers for general meetings and fulfilled other secretarial roles. Whilst Dianne Thomson's work commitments have not enabled her to participate fully during the past twelve months, her contribution to the work of the

association, especially as Vice-President, has been greatly appreciated.

The tenth anniversary of the declaration of Namadgi National Park was celebrated in October. At a World Environment Day function in June the previous director of the Environment, Culture and Sports Division of the ACT Department of Environment, Land and Planning spoke warmly of the work done by our NPA towards the setting aside of this wonderful area.

Several members met with the current director, Glenn Bellechambers, to discuss matters of importance regarding Namadgi and to assure him of our continuing interest in the development and management of the park.

Membership remains similar to last year. Fees were increased slightly to cover inflationary costs. We were pleased once again to receive ACT Heritage grants for publication of the quarterly *Bulletin* and for heritage activity support, especially relating to heritage in Namadgi. We continue to employ an office manager; research and project officer; the *Bulletin* editor, Roger Green; and to pay for office accommodation at Chifley. A telephone answering machine has been added to assets. We hire storage space for

Cover photo

Part of the development to promote tourism in the Orroral Valley is for a walking track from the camping ground to the site of the former tracking station. The track will follow the Orroral River from the camping ground until it reaches the open area where a footbridge will be built to facilitate crossing the river. The track will pass points of interest to provide extensive views of the valley and to visit the Orroral Homestead and shearing shed.

Over the swampy areas of the valley, walkways will be constructed. The NPA is giving support to the construction of these walkways and, on the first well-attended weekend work party, greater than expected progress was made.

The photograph shows ranger Craig Richardson in discussion with past president Beverley Hammond and secretary Len Haskew at the site of a particularly long section at the tracking station end of the track.

Reg Alder

Annual report *continued from previous page*



Beverley Hammond. Photo by Den Robin

publications and use the Griffin Centre for general meetings. Our treasurer, Mike Smith, is to be congratulated and thanked for the wonderful way in which he manages all our financial matters.

Namadgi National Park

A major project in Namadgi over the next few years will be the removal of the Boboyan pine forest at Gudgenby and the rehabilitation of that area. Nicki Taws is preparing a detailed paper for our association to increase our understanding of all the stages involved in this exercise and to help us appreciate the options available to the ACT Government.

Work parties have been held at the Orroral homestead for weed and pine seedling removal and on the alpine walking track. A joint operation with the National Trust and Kosciusko Huts Association has realised the publication of a conservation plan for the Tennent farm complex. This area continues to be an important project of the Namadgi sub-committee.

Other ACT matters

Following the release of the National Ecotourism Strategy an issues paper has been released on an ecotourism policy for the ACT. Both this and a proposed marketing strategy for Namadgi, ACT Nature Reserve and Googong foreshores, have been widely discussed and will receive continuing attention. Members were pleased with the progress on the declaration of Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve with the legal recognition of Canberra Nature Park and with proposals for the lower Molonglo Gorge.

Concern was expressed about telecommunication towers on hills in the ACT. We contributed to 'Our Bush Capital' proposals, ACTEW's water strategy and the draft of the first State of the Environment report prepared by Dr Baker, Commissioner for the Environment in the ACT.

Beyond the ACT

Submissions and letters were sent to government representatives and agencies on the Plan of Management for Kosciusko, bush fires in NSW, the Jervis Bay armaments

proposal, the south-east forests, crown leases near Morton and Budawang national parks, the Snowy Precipitation Enhancement Project and the draft of the National Ecotourism Strategy.

Track restoration work parties were held in the Budawang.

Steven Forst and Timothy Walsh have guided the Namadgi and environment sub-committees and I am sure all members appreciate their commitment to the association. The contribution of all sub-committee members is warmly acknowledged.

Outings

The NPA (ACT) has been leading walks for many years now, but imaginative leaders always find new areas to explore or revisit old favourites. A revamped mid-week walks program is being trialled. Mick Kelly has done a wonderful job of planning programs and encouraging leaders.

Bulletin

Our quarterly publication continues to report on association activities, to keep members informed of current conservation issues and to educate readers about environmental matters. Thank you to Sonya Lenz and Phyl Goddard who are on that sub-committee.

Marketing and advertising

Displays have been mounted in several libraries to inform the public about NPA and to invite membership. Exhibitions were mounted for World Environment Day, Heritage Week, ACT Alive and for our Bird Guide launch. A range of publications is available at monthly meetings. Meetings are advertised in newspapers and on the radio. Les Pyke, Doreen Wilson, Adrienne Nicholson and Clive Hurlstone have all worked hard in pursuing these promotions.

Foxoff!

No, not the latest piece of graffiti in the log book at Frank's Hut, though you may have seen it on signs around Namadgi. Foxoff, a bait designed specifically for this voracious lover of Australian wildlife, is one of the many tools employed by Peter Banks. So who is Peter Banks? Peter has been conducting research into the relationship between foxes and native prey species in Namadgi National Park for the past three years. Peter's work is part of his PhD at Sydney University and is being funded through the Australian Alps National Parks agreement.

Peter is studying the effect that fox predation has on grey kangaroos, some wallabies, small native mammals and rabbits. The parts of the park which are being used are the Boboyan, Grassy Creek, Orroral and Glendale valleys. Foxes have been left in Orroral and Glendale as control areas and removed from Boboyan and Grassy using a combination of foxoff baits and spotlight shooting. Identical surveys are carried out in each of the valleys for the prey species. These results are then

analysed to determine any trends.

Rabbit numbers in the fox-free areas have increased markedly while those in the areas with foxes have remained roughly constant. This supports other studies and was to be expected. It does, however, highlight the important role that foxes play in controlling rabbit numbers. Small native mammals have shown no particular reaction to the removal of foxes, though one may become evident after a second breeding season. Red-necked wallabies have reacted to the removal of foxes by grazing further from the forest edge, some as far as 150 metres, while they always remain within 20 metres in the control areas.

The most significant finding of Peter's work has been related to the effect fox predation has on the grey kangaroo. This has been most significant during the October to January period when joeys are leaving the pouch permanently. Fox cubs are being born and weaned at this time as well, and consequently the energetic requirements of breeding foxes are at a peak. Counts were taken of

numbers of females with large pouch young in each of the areas from August to January. In the fox removal areas nearly all of the joeys present in August survived through to January. However in the area with foxes only about 55 per cent of the joeys present in August survived through to January. This indicated significant predation of grey kangaroos by foxes.

The continuation of the work over another breeding cycle will give an insight into the extent to which foxes control grey kangaroo numbers. A second breeding cycle for the small mammals may also highlight any smaller or longer term effects of fox predations on these animals. Eventually the results of this study will be used by managers in the alps parks to understand the implications of proposed fox control programs.

Peter will be continuing his research over the next year and his further findings are awaited with (if you'll pardon the pun) baited breath.

Craig Richardson
Namadgi National Park

Annual report *continued from previous page*

General meetings

Monthly meetings continue at the Griffin Centre with a variety of speakers and a wide range of environment-related topics. We learned about the wetlands, the role of the Commissioner for the Environment, wildlife conservation, echidnas, the mallee, Aboriginal involvement in national parks, ACT Bushfire Council, future directions for conservation in the ACT and walking in New Zealand. Adrienne Nicholson and her team of volunteers kept us well suppered.

Representation with other organisations

NPA (ACT) continues to be represented on the ACT Environment and Conservation Consultative Committee, the Cultural Heritage Working Group, the Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra, the Environment Centre, the Heritage Week Committee and the Landcare sub-committee. The president of the Australian National Parks Council, Stephen Johnston, is now residing in Canberra and, together with Neville and Nicki Esau, he keeps us informed of ANPC activities. Three members of NPA have attended ACT Ecotourism Policy working group meetings.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all members who have been so supportive during my three years as president. The NPA is the sum total of all its members whether they are able to give time to coming to meetings, committee membership, writing, leading outings or going on them, helping with exhibitions, preparing displays, distributing books, or preparing lunches or suppers. We are also grateful to those whose financial assistance, both through membership fees and donations, allows the NPA to maintain its commitment to protection and enhancement of the environment.

Beverley Hammond

Trivial pursuit of eucalyptus

The following is a transcript of the talk given by long-time NPA member, George Chippendale, at the November general meeting.

What part of Australia is covered by eucalypts?

Eucalypts dominate most of our Australian continent including Tasmania but excluding areas of jungle or rainforest. Some eucalypts do grow in high rainfall areas but not in the jungle areas of northern Australia. Some years ago I worked out how many species of eucalypts were found naturally in each grid of a map of Australia and it was interesting to see how they showed up on a map, with several areas having far more species than others.

When were eucalypts first dealt with systematically?

The first time the eucalypts were listed in a systematic order was in 1867 in volume two of *Flora Australiensis*, which was written by the great English botanist George Bentham. In this volume Bentham described and gave a botanical key to 135 species.

Who wrote the first book with all eucalypts in it?

Jumping over a lot of less systematised literature of the eucalypts, we come to 1934 when William Blakely wrote and published the first book dealing entirely with all the eucalypts known to that time, numbering about 680.

When was the most recent book with all eucalypts in it?

In 1988 in volume 19 of the new *Flora of Australia*, 540 taxa were described and illustrated. So since Blakely's day it looks as if we lost 150 taxa! Actually it was only that Blakely had included a number of hybrids and also since that time some of his taxa have been synonymised with other taxa.

Are there any more eucalypts to be described? How many eucalypts are there?

Since 1988 there have been over 200 new taxa described, making about 740 taxa known, yet actually there are still more to come. Botanists have known about many of the recently-described new species for varying long periods, but haven't got round to describing them legitimately. Now, since the *Flora of Australia* volume in 1988, there has been an almighty rush to publish. So if anybody asks you how many eucalypts there are, say 740 but still counting.

Where are eucalyptus petals?

The 'flowers' of eucalypts are actually the stamens, the male floral organs, with the female organs hidden in the middle. Petals do not exist as such in eucalypts, but the stamens provide the splash of colour in red, pink, yellow, orange, cream and white.

What is the most distinctive character of eucalypts?

I guess you all know that eucalypt leaves have a distinctive smell when you crush them. There are two species which have a citronella smell, one being *E. citriodora*, a smooth-barked species, and the other being *E. staigerana*, an ironbark of northern Queensland. Another distinctive group is made up of the peppermints, with a distinct scent of peppermint in the leaves. One of the peppermints of this district, *E. dives*, 'broad-leaved peppermint', has been a source of commercial oil and has previously provided a living for a number of people, particularly near Captains Flat, but also in other parts of sub-coastal NSW.

Are eucalypts native outside Australia?

A number of other countries claim to have native eucalypts. You can believe them if they are Timor, New Guinea or the Philippines, for there

are several in Timor, one in the Philippines (*E. deglupta*) and a number of species in New Guinea shared with the Australian mainland. I know that some Californians think their eucalypts are native there but they are not. Likewise there are many growing in Italy, Spain, South Africa, New Zealand and elsewhere, but they are all introduced from Australia. In fact in some of these places they are claiming eucalypts as weeds.

To what heights do the smallest and tallest eucalypts grow?

Eucalypts vary from a low-growing shrub less than one metre in height (*E. vernicosa*) in the Sentinel Ranges of Tasmania, to the mallee or shrubby species of many areas, to the giants approaching 100 metres of species such as *E. regnans* (mountain ash). Undoubtedly you will hear rival claims of whether this species or the Californian redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) are the tallest plants in the world. The answer is a moot point with the biggest of each having been cut down years ago, but without question our mountain ash is the tallest hardwood in the world. I think it went to about 320–360 feet or 106 metres in height. Another tall tree, of course, is the karri in WA (*E. diversicolor*).

How do you learn to identify eucalypts?

Identifying eucalypts is the same as identifying any other plant. I believe the only way to learn to identify any plant is to know the terms which are used in botany books. Study the glossaries in any botanical books you may have. Unless you can understand or at least know where to look up the various terms, you will not get far. Most knowledge of eucalypts is in books and these are where you must go to learn. Certainly people who live in any one area will get to know the trees in their surroundings, but knowing their correct

name is also important. Common names are all right if the name is really common, but some common names vary with the district or state and can be unreliable.

What are eucalypts named after?

Scientific names are the only sure way for one person to know what another is talking about. Using botanical names is not as difficult as people sometimes state. Again, often the name tells us something about the species. For instance *Eucalyptus maculosa*, in which the species name means 'mottled' or 'full of spots', refers to the patchy appearance of the bark. In the red stringybark, *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, which occurs on Black Mountain and elsewhere, the species name means 'large beak', referring to the large pointed cap to the buds. Others where the knowledge of the name can help with its identity are:

E. polyanthemos, red box—many-flowered

E. maculata, spotted gum—spotted, blotched

E. niphonphila, one of the snow gums—snow-loving

Sometimes the name is a misnomer because of the condition of the plant when it was first seen or described such as *E. pauciflora*, which is the common snow gum. The name means 'few-flowered' and is the exact opposite of its flowering condition. At least when you know this you can think backwards and again have a clue to the identity. Then, of course, if the species is named after a person, it behoves you to know some botanical history. For instance *E. maidenii*, a blue gum seen on the road on Brown Mountain, is named after JH Maiden who was a Director of the Sydney Botanical Gardens and it was named by Ferdinand von Mueller, the famous Melbourne botanist.

Are eucalypts mentioned in poetry?

Adam Lindsay Gordon's view of eucalypts is expressed:

*When the gnarl'd, knotted trunks
eucalyptian,
Seem carved, like weird columns
Egyptian.*

This might be the view of a poet not born in Australia. Adam Lindsay Gordon was born in the West Indies, but then a native-born poet, Banjo Paterson said:

*A scent of eucalyptus trees in
honey-laden bloom*

and Will Ogilvie, another native-born poet said:

*Hurrah for the red-gums
standing
So high on the range above!*

What does the name eucalyptus mean?

You probably all know that the name 'eucalyptus' is derived from two Greek words, 'eu' meaning 'well' and 'kalyptos' meaning 'covered'. This refers to the buds which have a distinctive cap covering everything else. One very distinctive bud is that of *E. erythrocorys*, a rare WA species, where the cap is shaped like a biretta, a square cap worn by some ministers of religion.

Which eucalypt did Joseph Banks collect first in 1770?

The first eucalypt collected was by Joseph Banks on the shores of Botany Bay and was *E. gummifera*, the common bloodwood of the Sydney district.

Which was the first eucalypt described in literature?

However, *E. gummifera* was not the first species to be described in literature. The first one described was *E. obliqua*, the messmate stringybark from Tasmania. This one was collected by David Nelson, who was with Captain Cook on his third voyage, at Adventure Bay in Tasmania.

Who described the first eucalypt in literature?

The surprising thing is that this species, *E. obliqua*, and the whole genus of *Eucalyptus* was described by a French magistrate, Charles Louis L'Héritier in 1788, 18 years after Banks had collected the first eucalypt specimen. A sidelight on this is that L'Héritier was assassinated and there is no drawing of him known, so we do not know what he looked like. Most of the other people who had something to do with eucalypts are known by drawings, paintings or, latterly, photographs.

Were eucalypts known before this?

I have said that Banks collected the first eucalypt specimen in 1770 but some explorers, namely Abel Tasman in 1642 and William Dampier in 1699, had the opportunity and mentioned trees which must have been eucalypts. However, they did not collect specimens, or if they did the specimens did not survive. Banks' specimen did survive and I have seen it, as indeed I saw the specimen on which the genus is based, collected by the gardener David Nelson. These are in the herbarium of the Museum of Natural History in South Kensington, London.

Which eucalypt occurs most widely in Australia?

The species which covers most of the mainland of Australia is the river red gum, *E. camaldulensis*, while the species which has the greatest north-south occurrence is *E. tereticornis*, the forest red gum, which occurs from Victoria to north Queensland.

Are there deciduous eucalypts?

Eucalypts are regarded as the archetypal evergreen tree but not many know that there are a few deciduous species such as *E. alba*, occurring in the northern part of Australia.

Trivial pursuit of eucalyptus *continued from previous page*

What are the main bark types in eucalypts?

There are nine main types of bark and it helps greatly to be able to identify these. If you can identify what sort of bark a tree has, then you cut down the number of species you are concerned with. For instance, in bloodwoods there may be about 20, and if you also know where the plant is growing you probably can get the identity straight away. The actual locality is most important. Anyway the bark types are:

1. bloodwood—brown or red-brown and appearing to be segmented into pseudo squares
2. ironbark—usually dark grey or black and extremely hard
3. stringybark, is just as it sounds and able to be pulled off the trunk in long strings
4. peppermint—less stringy and tending to be somewhat cris-cross in pattern
5. box—finely fibrous and adhering closely to the trunk and branches, usually grey to grey-brown
6. gum—usually applied to the smooth-barked species
7. ash—a combination of fibrous bark at the lower part of the tree with smooth gum bark above
8. minaritchie—a very special bark only found in WA on a few eucalypts where the deciduous bark rolls longitudinally on the trunk
9. scribbly—the 'scribbles' are seen on the otherwise smooth bark, this being caused by the scribbly gum moth *Omograptis scribula*.

Are eucalypts represented on Australian money?

Some other interesting trivia about eucalypts are that on the old \$5 note there is a drawing of *E. pytifomis*, the pear-fruited mallee from WA. There are several other eucalypts on this note, too, plus some other native plants. The later \$5 note also has a eucalypt featured. The new plastic note has a representation of the scribbly gum, *E. haemastoma*,

which is seen around Sydney and the central coast of NSW.

Are eucalypts edible?

In central Australia the common bloodwood, *E. terminalis*, has on it what are called bush apples, actually fleshy material about the size of an apple but caused by a gall insect. These are prized by Aborigines. In Tasmania the cider gum, *E. gunnii*, has been used by Aborigines to make an alcoholic cider. Some was even sent to the British botanist William Hooker. Most people will have seen canoe trees, invariably eucalypt trees from which Aborigines have cut a large slab to be fashioned into a canoe. There is one at Broulee, for instance.

Are there any historic eucalypts?

Our eucalypts also play a big part in our history. The Proclamation Tree (*E. camaldulensis*, river red gum) in Glenelg, Adelaide, was where the State of South Australia was proclaimed in 1857. The same species was used in 1836 in the Botanic Gardens of Melbourne when Victoria became a separate colony.

Are eucalypts used in children's books?

Another type of history is the book that many of us were brought up on, the world of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie. May Gibbs, the author of this children's classic, used many native plants in her drawings including eucalypts. The cover of many editions showed some large gumnuts, and the hats worn by many of the characters in the book were actually the caps or operculum of eucalypt flowers. One of the characters was called Little Ragged Blossom and her skirt, hair and cape are said to be based on the flowers of the Tasmanian bluegum, *E. globulus*. I believe the gumnuts used on the cover of the book are probably of the red bloodwood, *E. gummifera*. The writing by the creatures in this book is based on the scribbles on the Sydney

scribbly gum, *E. haemastoma*. There was an article about this in the July edition of the magazine *Gardening Australia* and there was a recent exhibition in the Sydney Botanic Gardens also.

Where can you see 300 or more eucalypts in one place?

One great place to see eucalypts in a sort of garden atmosphere is in the arboretum of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in Adelaide. They have had 300 or more different eucalypt species well cared for in a comparatively small area and for many years, if not still, accurate records were kept of growth rates and causes of death.

Can you buy clothing adorned by eucalypt motifs?

I'm surprised that gumnuts have not been used as decoration on clothing or artefacts. I spent a lot of time looking for a tie with gumnuts or even leaves on it but with no luck.

(Editor's note: Eucalypt motifs are being used quite frequently on T-shirts and windcheaters, particularly hand-painted ones and in brooches, other small items of jewellery and souvenirs, but we have been very slow to take them up. This point was made in general discussion at the meeting.)

These are just a few of the trivia concerning eucalypts. There are many more but this is enough for now.

George M Chippendale

Nothing new in heritage disputes

While browsing the latest issue of the normally dry pages of *Archaeological Studies Review*, I came across an interesting article which shows that there is nothing new in heritage disputes.

In 1992 an archaeological team from Lafayette University, USA, was excavating the ruins of a minor 6th century BC temple near Thessalonika in northern Greece.

In a stone vault under the foundations they made an unusual find, hundreds of wax tablets in an excellent state of preservation. When translated, these proved to be part of the municipal records of Athens from the 5th century BC. Researchers speculated that they had been moved north for safekeeping during the Peloponnesian Wars (431-404 BC).

In the midst of records concerning mundane subjects like water supply, sewerage and taxes, the translators came across a startling discovery, the complete records of the original proposal to build the Parthenon.

It seems that the Parthenon project was in fact a redevelopment of the Acropolis site which involved the demolition of terrace housing dating from Athens' earliest days. These terrace houses had originally been the residences of wealthy merchants but had fallen into disrepair and become unsightly slums. Nevertheless they were the last surviving example of that type of housing and the proposal to demolish them aroused a storm of protest from the

more culturally sensitive citizens.

To make matters worse it emerged that the developer, one Spiros Papandreou, had sent the entire Athens City Council on a two-week cruise around the Aegean with 100 dancing girls. However a spokesman for the council described the cruise as 'a hard-working conference' and the so-called dancing girls as 'nothing more than deckhands'.

The leaders of the protest movement were Edmundos Kaponis, Filippis Adamas, Leonida Karamis and Donaldis Hornopoulos. They attacked the design of the proposed Parthenon building in these terms:

...a collection of sterile columns (Kaponis)

It looks like a wedding cake (Adamas)

...out of keeping with the character of the area (Karamis)

A monument to greed and parvenu vulgarity (Hornopoulos).

However, they could not withstand the power of the almighty drachma. Papandreou got his way and soon the beautiful terrace houses were no more. At first the citizens resented the overbearing presence of 'the hideous monstrosity', as they called the new building, but as more and more tourists came to Athens to see it they gradually accepted it.

Nowadays, of course, we deal with heritage issues in a much more civilised way.

David Eastman

Funding boost for NSW NPWS

'The environment is clearly back as an issue of major public concern', according to Richard Jones, MLC. The NSW government has boosted annual recurrent funding to the NPWS from \$43 to \$79 million over the next three years. Twenty million dollars will be spent buying or extending national parks on the north coast with \$5 million to be spent on feral animal and weed control and \$4 million on fire management. Control of feral animals would expand tenfold according to environment minister Chris Hartcher.

The increase seemed to follow in the footsteps of a poll conducted for the government of over 1500 people in April that clearly showed environmental problems to be close to the top of people's concerns for the future. 'The Liberals are trying to win back the green vote before the next election in March 1995,' concluded Mr Jones.

Canopy, Australian Democrats newsletter, September 1994

Native title applications

The NPA has received notification from the National Native Title Tribunal in Perth of several applications for the determination of native title. The applications concern the following people and areas:

- Adnyamathanha people eastern South Australia, adjacent to the Flinders Ranges
- Darug people south-east New South Wales, state forest and reserve near Baulkham Hills, Sydney
- Gurubana-Gunggandji people north Queensland, land and waters about 12 kilometres east of Cairns
- Wandarang, Mara, Alawa and Ngalakan people eastern Northern Territory, land and waters in the Roper River region.

NPA Christmas Party

Sunday 11 December 3.00pm at Orroral Valley picnic ground. Members and friends welcome. Bring a picnic tea.

PARKWATCH

Shoalwater Bay saved

Shoalwater Bay is one of the last pristine coastal wildernesses left.

On 1 September, federal cabinet decided to prevent mining, retain Department of Defence control and retain access for the local Darumbal Aboriginal people.

The Shoalwater/Byfield region is located just inside the Tropic of Capricorn, and covers approximately 3000 square kilometres. The region falls within the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area and Byfield National Park. Together these areas represent the largest stretch of undeveloped coastal land on the east coast of Australia and south of Cape York Peninsula.

This large wilderness has many features which make it both regionally and nationally significant. These features include a high diversity of flora, fauna and landscapes; the presence of rare and threatened species; uncommon floristic associations and the role it plays in the understanding of human occupation of Australia. The area's marine environment is already included on the World Heritage list and on the register of the National Estate.

This spectacular land contains an estimated 30 per cent of all Australia's animal and plant species, including 51 per cent of Australia's bird species and 13 per cent of its frog species. A number of rare and endangered species such as the dugong (*Dugong dugong*) and the green sea turtle (*Cheloniemydas*) are also found.

Total Environment, Total Environment Centre, August 1994

South-east forests—a brief respite

In a bizarre turn of events most of the *South East Forests Protection Bill* has been included in the *Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act*. Amendments accepted by the NSW government provide for:

- a moratorium on logging of 125 000 hectares of unlogged old growth forest well into 1995—a larger area than in the south east bill
- a committee of regulators (National Parks and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Soil Conservation) to control logging and roading by the Forestry Commission when no Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared and to monitor logging after determination of an Environmental Impact Statement
- a public register of proposed logging plans, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Environmental Protection Agency licences as well as monitoring reports.

The forest under moratorium includes:

- all areas currently on the National Estate Register
- important habitats of koala, endangered owl and potoroo
- east-west links from the escarpment to the coastal national parks.

Not unexpectedly, State Forests were less than active in withdrawing existing logging from the moratorium area and a short campaign was necessary to ensure that they withdrew.

Total Environment, Total Environment Centre, August 1994

Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve

The ACT minister for the Environment, Bill Wood, launched a management plan on 5 October 1994 for one of ACT's most significant breeding sites for waterbirds—Jerrabomberra Nature Reserve.

The management plan was prepared by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service and describes how the reserve is to be managed to enhance its conservation, educational and recreational values.

The wetlands are a significant landscape feature of Canberra and contain habitat of international importance to the conservation of migratory species of waterbirds. The wetlands provide food, shelter, and breeding sites for many of the bird species that frequent the southern highlands. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service will continue to maintain the conservation values of the wetlands so that they may be enjoyed and appreciated by the people of the ACT and its visitors.

Land Information Newsletter, Department of the Environment, Land and Planning, October 1994

Horse riding in national parks

Horse riding groups are lobbying the NSW Government to permit widespread riding in national parks and wilderness areas.

Horses have made a great contribution to the exploration, settlement and development of Australia. They were an important part of Australia's efforts in World War I. They are marvellous creatures and part of our cultural heritage.

However, like most other activities, horse riding has an impact on the natural environment. Its impact is so severe that horse riding must be banned in national parks, nature reserves, wilderness

areas and in the areas where nature conservation is a primary objective. These areas amount to only five per cent of Australia so a ban on horse riding in parks will not seriously affect horse riding as a recreation. It leaves at least 90 per cent of Australia available to the riders.

A horse, its rider and saddle, weigh on average 500 kilograms which is seven times heavier than the average pedestrian. Horses are steel shod and their weight comes down on a relatively small impact area which has a considerable effect on the ground.

In 1986 in the McCarrs Creek area of Ku-ring-gai Chase there were 50-80 unauthorised bridle trails in five square kilometres, including many erosion trenches up to your knees.

This sort of damage is too expensive for the government to attempt to repair. Recently the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service spent \$68 000 to repair six kilometres of track in Ku-ring-gai Chase. The Service calculated that for every kilometre of authorised bridle trail in the Chase it receives \$400 in permit fees but spends \$4000 in maintenance. This figure does not include the cost of repairing unauthorised horse tracks.

Physical damage to the riding ground surface is not the only impact of horse riding. Deposits of nitrogen rich horse droppings change local ecology by upsetting the nutrient balance. Where riding parties cross streams, the horse hooves cut down and collapse stream banks and the stream becomes turbid with silt.

But perhaps the most serious impact of horse riding in the natural areas is the spread of weeds through horse stomachs or carried on their coats.

Total Environment, Total Environment Centre, August 1994

Plant a Tree

Greening Australia and the ACT Cancer Society launched a special program called *Plant a Tree in Memory* which will help fight cancer, improve the environment and provide shade for future generations.

The *Plant a Tree in Memory* program, which was launched on 3 September 1994, allows people from the ACT and surrounding region to have a tree planted in memory of a special occasion such as a birthday, wedding or loss of a loved one. It is a gift that will be remembered by family and friends for years to come.

The ACT Cancer Society will use a part of each donation made to the program to help expand their services and increase research and education. Greening Australia will use part of each donation for revegetation projects in the ACT and surrounding regions to combat land and water degradation, replace wildlife habitat and increase shade.

Broadcast, Greening Australia ACT & SE NSW, September 1994

Rabbit control

Members of the conservation movement will be aware of research work being undertaken by CSIRO to introduce a new biological control agent for wild rabbits in Australia and New Zealand.

Their research is focused on rabbit calicivirus disease (RCD) which is seen as an effective alternative to myxomatosis. RCD has been having a devastating effect on the rabbit population in Europe over the last few years—ironically, Spanish scientists are working to stop the disease.

The likelihood of RCD release has moved a step closer following a recent inspection of Wardang Island (in Spencer Gulf, South Australia) by a group of scientists from New Zealand and Australia.

Wardang Island has been chosen for the second stage of research and field trial work on RCD.

Xanthopus, Nature Conservation Society of SA, October 1994

Cat controls

The Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Bill was introduced into the Victorian parliament at the beginning of spring. The proposed legislation will bring cats under control for the first time as well as improving legislation for dogs. The legislation calls for registration and identification of all cats and dogs over 6 months old. Fees will apply—cheaper for animals that are de-sexed.

Councils will have the power to restrict the wandering of cats if they wish, for example, a cat curfew in areas of special conservation significance. As at present, dogs will not be allowed to wander unsupervised at any time. Anyone will have the right to seize a dog or cat at large in an area where it is prohibited provided that the animal is promptly taken to an appropriate local council officer. Registered animals can then be returned and their owners fined if necessary.

Newsletter of the Victorian National Parks Association, October 1994

Direct seeding

A milestone has been achieved on the southern tablelands with a recent direct seeding on Allendale, Boorowa, which has given the property a total area of over 50 kilometers of trees and shrubs established from seed.

The direct seeding project began with a modest trial of 2.8 kilometers in spring 1991, which was later described as a total disaster following heavy post seeding rain. Property owner David Marsh has since worked with Greening Australia to perfect the technique on the southern tablelands of NSW and now has 55 kilometers established for wind-breaks, agroforestry and salinity control.

Broadcast, Greening Australia ACT & SE NSW, Aug/Sept 1994

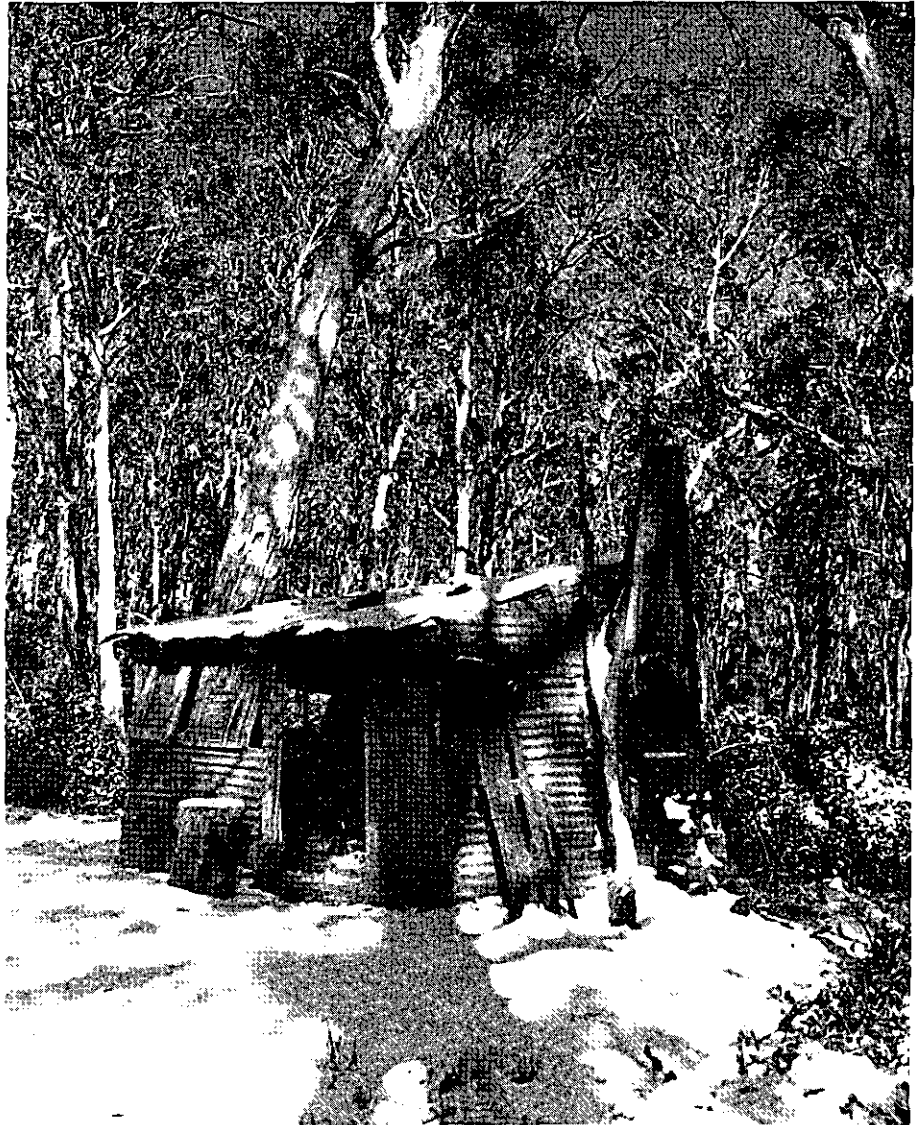
FOOTSTEPS

The Tops to Myall's Heritage Trail

This walk spans about 220 kilometres and extends from the World Heritage Barrington Tops National Park via Carey's Peak to the Gloucester Tops and then through Chichester, Avon, Craven, Myall River, Wang Wauk and Bulahdelah state forests before passing through the Myall Lakes National Park, ending at the township of Hawks Nest. The trail was inaugurated in 1992 with the Governor of NSW taking part. It is now an annual feature on the NSW National Parks Association Walks Program. With the assistance of the Tea Gardens Lions Club, it is a full-pack walk for two days and then the remaining nine days are walked with just a day pack.

This year Judy Webster, Tim Walsh, Syd Comfort and I decided that we would take part in the walk that ran from 27 September to 7 October. We are all pleased that we did the walk and probably even more pleased that our muscles, joints and feet proved equal to the task. Most of the walking is on forestry roads and fire trails and at times also involves walking along rural roads and this year, at least, several kilometres are along the main northern railway line. The hard surfaces were quick to find weaknesses in both body and gear. Fortunately the support vehicle was able to offer transport to the most severely afflicted. Distances each day were reasonably long and early in the walk there were some quite considerable ascents and descents. Our leaders, Andy and John, knew the area very well and were able to adjust the actual path to suit the party and, on occasions, were able to offer a choice between the high road or the low road. That said, however, intending walkers should be warned that Andy could not resist any suggestion of a trig or other high point!

We began the walk in a snowstorm and covered a considerable distance over snow that was about six centi-



Hut on Careys Peak. Photo by Len Haskeu

metres deep, but dry and powdery. We started the walk at midday and walked about 17 kilometres to camp at Black Swamp. On a nice day it may well be quite an attractive spot but covered in snow it didn't seem at all inviting. We made camp as quickly as we could and were in our tents just on nightfall. Everyone had a rather coolish and very long night. After that the days and most of the nights were all warm and there was certainly no more rain. In fact, water was a worry and as we neared the coast, bushfires be-

came evident. When we reached Myall Lakes National Park the last two days were curtailed by bushfires.

On such a long walk through so many ecosystems there were many highlights. Probably, because the area was showing the effects of the drought, I remember the flowing rivers most vividly. A large block up on the Barrington River, rather ignominiously called The Big Hole, was a truly delightful feature in the snow and I imagine it would have an even greater appeal on a hot day. Gloucester Falls were a very worthwhile side trip and the Gloucester River certainly looks

worthy of further exploration. At the Karuah River, which we reached one lunchtime, we were able to replenish our water bottles and also find pools sufficiently deep for a refreshing plunge.

Despite the terrain, views were not a real feature of the walk but the view from Carey's Peak was outstanding and enabled us to see just how the drought was punishing the area. Later we camped beside the trig on Mt Teleraree in Bulahdelah State Forest and had wonderful views across the Bombah Broadwater to the volcanic guardians of the entrance to Port Stephens. Botanically the communities we saw were many and varied, although because of the drought we did not see them at their best. There were, of course, the wide variety of rainforest types in the Barrington Tops area as well as subalpine areas. The ferns and epiphytes claimed everyone's attention and were committed to film time and time again. Lower down we saw some magnificent paperbark swamps and, by the broadwater, a display of flannel flowers that were over head height. Those of us who pressed on despite the fires walked through an area that had been extensively sand mined and later regenerated. It was quite obvious that the revegetation procedures were evolving very gradually and the more recent efforts had quite wonderful displays of heath flowers. I am far from convinced, though, that the area is being returned to its natural state.

The area is reputed to be rich in both bird and animal life but we saw very little evidence of this. Perhaps the size of our party (over 20) frightened the wildlife away. Perhaps they were escaping the drought—most of the small creeks and streams were dry—or perhaps logging and fires, both past and present, had driven them elsewhere. The most frequently seen animals were brumbies which seem to be present in all the state forests.

Around Myall Lakes there were

plenty of waterbirds, especially pelicans. Lace monitors were also plentiful and were not averse to having their photograph taken. At Bombah Point there were a couple of resident kookaburras who relished the meat in hamburgers just as much as the bushwalkers who had spent the previous nine days living on freeze-dried food. Also in residence here was a family of blue-faced honeyeaters.

to date—he was quickly crowned poet laureate.

This walk made me appreciate even more how fortunate we are to have Namadgi with its flowing streams, abundant wildlife, great views, soft uncrowded campsites and so little evidence of man-made degradation. However, if you feel you are up to a long walk this trek is well worth doing. Because distances are so great and because



Falls, Gloucester River. Photo by Len Haskew

I'll be a long time forgetting the interest that ticks aroused in a party of walkers from Victoria. Once we reached the lakes it was rather easy to acquire a tick and it was quite amusing to see at dusk the little torchlight processions going off to watch an 'operation'. At the walkers' dinner at Myall Shores, Sid entertained us all with a very apt epic poem about the parties' experiences

water is rather scarce, it is probably not a walk you could easily do unassisted. NPA (NSW) and all involved organise things very well; nothing went wrong for us. If you would like to take part next year contact either of the joint leaders, Andy Cairns (02) 813 142 or John Niven (049) 435 343.

Len Haskew

Namadgi National Park's tenth anniversary



On 30 October, about 30 NPA members, friends and Craig Richardson, ranger in the park, met to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the declaration of the Gudgenby Nature Reserve as a national park.

We walked the Yerrabi Track—built by NPA members in 1987, admired the flowers on the way, the clear water in Little Dry Creek and the view from the trig. We continued to admire the mountains as we sat and ate our lunch in the sun on the rock platform over the hill. Later we investigated the rock shelter beneath the slab and the huge boulders there.

Then back to the cars and down to the Gudgenby River where we walked beside this lovely stream before having a party in the first paddock beside the river.

Past presidents, Beverley Hammond, Syd Comfort and Ian Currie, cut a large slab cake after young Harry (Ian and Jean's grandson) blew out the candles and we all sang 'Happy birthday to Namadgi'.

All enjoyed the afternoon, the sun, wine and food, and felt at peace with the world in this very lovely place.

Fiona MacDonald Brand



*Top: NPA lunch on Yerrabi Track
Bottom: NPA celebrations beside
Gudgenby River. Photos by Reg
Alder*

Fat cats and cockatoos

The following article, by Wolfgang Kasper, has been printed with the permission of the Independent Monthly.

Australia has done much for nature conservation. However, the stock response to environmental challenges has almost always been to transfer land to inalienable, non-private ownership and the exclusive control of bureaucracies. Nearly six per cent of Australia has been collectivised in national parks and other conservation areas.

On the whole, Australians have been fairly indifferent to the land being socialised in perpetuity. Land is abundant, most conservation areas are, in any event, carved out of crown land—which we consider as belonging to no-one.

This model of nature conservation is coming under increasing criticism. The NSW fires demonstrated that national parks are not necessarily good neighbours for family homes. Bushwalkers are often saddened to see the degradation of land by wild pigs, rabbits, Patterson's curse or lantana after it has been transferred from private farmers to public bureaucracies. And I am probably not the only Australian who deplores the abomination of the tax-funded steel walkway from the Perisher chairlift to Mount Kosciusko, or who has chanced upon heaps of construction material helicoptered by National Parks into remote places and left to litter the landscape. The rapid expansion of conservation areas imposes rising burdens on the taxpayer. Conservation bureaucracies are not always funded enough to care for nature after offices, public-service conditions and accommodation are taken care of.

It is not surprising that the government ownership and management are found wanting when it comes to long-term environmental care. Experience in other areas shows that the political control of

public assets often leads to shortsightedness and that government-owned assets are used for short-term party political gain. By contrast, private owners frequently take even the interest of their yet-unborn grandchildren into account. Though there are, of course, many exceptions—for example, farmers overgrazing their land—private ownership on average enhances the likelihood of long-term conservation of valuable assets. Economic theory can explain why collective ownership frequently leads to the degradation of nature.

The 'tragedy of the commons', as this has been called, is even visible from space: the first detailed satellite photos of northern Africa in 1974 showed the close coexistence of overgrazed, devastated public land and lush, fenced-in private pastures.

This age-old verity was also known to the Greek sage Aristotle, who wrote about 2 300 years ago: 'What is common to many is taken least care of, for all men have greater regard for what is their own than for what they possess in common with others.'

Consequently, Australia's almost exclusive concentration on the collectivist model seems a dangerous strategy for long-term nature conservation. 'National parks' need not be 'nationalised parks', and public access does not require public administration and ownership. At least some national park areas should be protected under alternative institutional arrangements. A mix of private and public ownership and private and bureaucratic management would allow us to find out what works best in the long run.

I find inspiration and encouragement in alternative arrangements which entrust natural assets to private owners, who are bound by government monitored covenants, or which hand the management of government-owned assets to private people or clubs with an environmen-

tal mission. The case of the African elephant is well known. Herds were hunted to near extinction by starving villagers and poachers as long as they belonged to government, that is, to no-one. Subsequently, villagers were given ownership; and they could protect and earn income by showing off 'their' elephants to tourists. The herds multiplied. In the same vein, I would make a case for lifting the prohibition on private ownership of rare bird species in Australia. That would curb the atrocious bird smuggling and give rare cockatoos the same chance of survival that chickens have.

Privately owned conservation projects can work, and work efficiently. In South Australia, for example, environmentalist John Wamsley runs the successful Warrawong sanctuary and other conservation areas. He has shown that his costs in attaining the conservation objective are much lower than in the comparable, socialised Cleland Wildlife Park, which is roughly the same size as Warrawong. In the same year in which Wamsley fenced his reserve for \$12 000, the park service fenced Cleland park at a cost to the taxpayer of \$300 000. Cleland employs about 40 staff, Warrawong four. The salaried national parks elite may find such comparisons odious. But the comparisons should give food for serious thought to those of us who want maximum environmental care for limited tax dollars.

Australian environmentalists should also consider the time-tested experience of the alpine clubs in Europe. In 1862, the Austrians founded their alpine club to make the fragile high country accessible, to study and to protect it. They were promptly followed by the Swiss and the Germans. Nowadays, the German alpine club alone has about 500 000 members. Small areas of the high country are entrusted to 'sections' (local chapters of the club).

Section members maintain hiking tracks and signs, and more generally have cared over the past 130 years for the land, the flora and fauna in the area with which they identify. They also operate alpine huts and other amenities under strict environmental rules.

Such clubs offer great advantages over the hierarchical, top-down socialist approach: clubs of genuinely interested people tend to bring enthusiasm, long-term commitment and voluntary labour to the task of conservation. And like the various Australian automobile clubs, they are more efficiently managed than most government organisations.

It is possible to hand environmental assets to clubs for limited periods and to invite competitors if the task is not done well. Moreover, leaders who prefer office work and resist dirtying their hands tend to be thrown out at the next election of club officials, whereas open-ended administrative monopoly and bu-

reaucratic tenure encourage office politics to the detriment of the necessary hard work in the wilds. For these reasons, we are now privatising government insurance companies, officers' messes and telephone services. Why not some national parks?

An important ingredient in the success of private clubs in managing nature is that they mobilise much valuable voluntary, practical engagement by people who care. In Australia, people of goodwill have largely been pushed in to the arms of environmental agitators and lobby groups, which have developed an incestuous symbiosis with government. The great old Australian tradition of voluntary work should be mobilised for nature conservation. People want to belong to good causes, as the admirable success of Ian Kiernan's Clean Up Australia campaign shows. And people cooperate well in small groups. Letting dedicated, small clubs care for

tracks, accommodation and waste removal in defined areas of the Blue Mountains, the Warrumbungles or the Grampians, in which club members take personal pride, would seem an experiment well worth attempting.

Where the interests of future generations and the conservation of our rich natural heritage are at stake, the predictable resistance of entrenched bureaucratic interests will have to be overcome. Conservation seems far too important a task to be left exclusively in the hands of collective ownership and bureaucratic administration, institutional devices whose track record in other walks of life has been dubious at best.

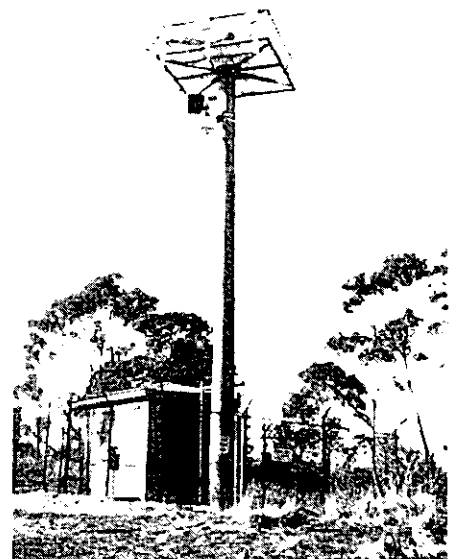
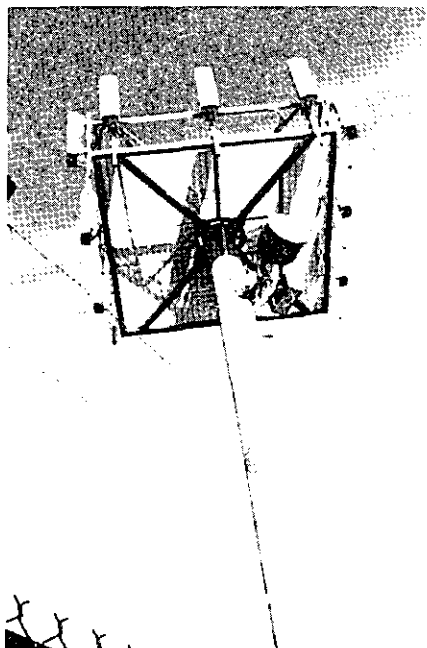
Wolfgang Kasper

Wolfgang Kasper is professor of economics at the University of New South Wales College at the Australian Defence Force Academy at Canberra.

Telecommunication eyesores

In the last issue of the *Bulletin* we reported on the proliferation of telecommunication towers on the hilltops of Canberra. The NPA wrote to Brian Howe, the Federal Minister for Housing and Regional Development, expressing concern that telecommunication carriers are exempt from local planning laws.

In response, the minister wrote that the telecommunications carriers are subject to the provisions of the National Capital Plan and that there is to be an amendment of the plan to include a policy on telecommunication towers. Until the amendment, which is to involve public consultation, it will not be legal for further towers to be constructed.



Photos by Den Robin

Snowy River Lament

An acquaintance of many,
But known to few.
From the snow
it used to flow,
But now
All plugged and plumbed,
its flow
Commences
From without the snow.

An enigma,
Like its course
A giant question mark
That carves its way
Through the southern section
Of Kosciusko National Park

Once,
A stream of might,
Of turbulence
Frozen in stone,
Through uplifted hills,
Incised valleys,
Rocky beds
And mighty sculpted galleries,
Deep gorges,
Waterfalls.

A river,
Flowing through granite hills
Clad in Native Pine
And Eucalypts -
Man from Snowy River Country
Rocky prominences studded
With Kurrajongs and
Casuarinas,
Crowned with Xanthorreas,
Their flower-topped spears
Thrusting skyward,
Their trunks
Shrouded with delicate grass
skirts

Now,
The Snowy's stream,
Below Jindabyne,
Only passes
Through New South Wales,
Where its other flows,
Till the Quidong shows,
Are minor flows,
While its upper flow
To the Murray goes.

Its longest stream,
The Quidong',
Not only does it flow,
To sea at Marlo
But rises now
On Errinunda's Plateau.

Today,
A benign trickle
Wends its way
Through Never Never Land
The Snowy Loop and Lower
Snowy
Warm Corner,
Poppong Bend.

At times,
Its water's violent surge
Spurred on
By clearing of the land
Does yet eclipse the past.

This remnant river,
Not quite a sewer,
But headed for *eutrophica*;
Alas, along its way,
A myriad things:
Massive piles of timber,
Steel drums, large and small,
Plastic in all its forms,
A wide range of bottles and cans,
Piled at record heights
Burnt Hut Crossing,
Ten metres plus.
An assortment of exotic plants:
Willows—some weeping,
Some upright,
Like their companion Poplars
Exotic sentinels that stud the
riverbanks
Cluttering and impeding flood-
ing flows.

Sand and banks,
Now rarely swept by cleansing
flows,
Littered with clinging Bathurst
Burr,
Assorted piercing thistles,
Orange-yellow Californian Pop-
pies
Tangled webs of Ivy and
Hoarhound mats.

The banks
Scarred by bulldozed tracks
Which wend their way
Among chain-sawed remnants
Of an ancient forest
Trodden by horse and cow
Draped with cutting
Clinging Blackberries
Among the crowding wattle.

The river,
But no more native or exotic fish

A river, still, however
With sinuous eels
And gliding platypus
Its tree-lined-banks
And sandy rocky isles
Echoing to the dawn chorus
The drumming call
Of Emus,
Aquatic birds;
Majestic Swans

The shattering calls
Of new invaders:
Blackbirds.

The Snowy,
Along whose banks remains
The evidence of human times
Of long and longer hence:
Memories of the Dreamtime
And of the recent past.

*The lower part of the Delegate river
is sometimes called the Quidong

Ian Haynes

State of the environment report available now!

The ACT's first report on the
state of the environment is out
now. You can buy this for \$20 at
ACT government shopfronts
and the Office of the Commis-
sioner for the Environment.

Bush blocks preserved

Have you heard of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund? This is an organisation which aims to facilitate nature conservation by acquiring land of outstanding ecological significance and preserving it as the nation's heritage.

In the Liffey Valley in Tasmania, a pristine bush heritage block, bought by donations from fund supporters, stands next to old-growth forest soon to be logged. 'I dread the sounds of the chainsaws up the Liffey Valley this summer. But when the night falls, I will climb up the hill and cross the block being destroyed, and go into our bush heritage block to listen to the scamper of the wildlife, knowing they at least are safe because we all rescued that block when it too was set to go to the woodchip mill,' says Bob Brown in the latest newsletter of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund.

Meanwhile, there is good news up in the Daintree. The Commonwealth government has agreed to provide \$11.5 million (on condition Queensland matches this) over the next three years for land purchase and

management arrangements of the most sensitive areas in the lowland forest of the Daintree.

The bush heritage fund owns a block of fan palm forest in this valuable lowland forest. It will remain the property of the fund, but will be included in the overall plan for the area included in the Daintree Rescue Package. In the meantime, the fund has signed an agreement with the local conservation organisation, the Daintree Rainforest Foundation, for them to look after the day-to-day management of the bush heritage block.

The Australian Bush Heritage Fund has had a good year, with its income more than double that of last year. If donations continue at the same rate, the fund anticipates buying another bush block this financial year. For more information, write to:

The Australian Bush Heritage Fund
102 Bathurst Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000
Phone (002) 315 475
Fax (002) 31 2491

Anne Forsythe

Make a difference!

If you are tired of just talking about conservation and want some action, then the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers have a wide range of projects for your involvement.

The trust is a non-profit, non-political, community-based organisation which operates in every state and territory in Australia. Under the guidance of employed and trained field officers and program managers, volunteer members assist in projects such as revegetation, seed collection, fence construction, walking track maintenance, weed and vermin control, heritage restoration, wildlife research and other scientific research.

Trust volunteers work on public and private land including forests, grasslands, beaches, parklands and farmland. The trust provides a field officer, transport, accommodation and equipment for all projects.

If you would like any information about the trust, call Michele Belford at the Canberra office on 247 7770 or freecall (008) 646 915.

Rainforest Action Alert

Although much of the steep upland forest of north-east Australia is protected as a World Heritage Area, two-thirds of the lowland forests from Daintree to Cape Tribulation have been excluded and are still open to clearcutting.

A proposed development area has been subdivided into 1100 lots to be sold for homes, a shopping centre, tourist accommodation and farming. This area includes much of the habitat for the region's last 54 cassowaries.

Daintree Rainforest Task Force is asking people to write letters to the Queensland and Federal Governments to demand forest clearing restrictions in the Daintree lowland rainforest.

Write to:

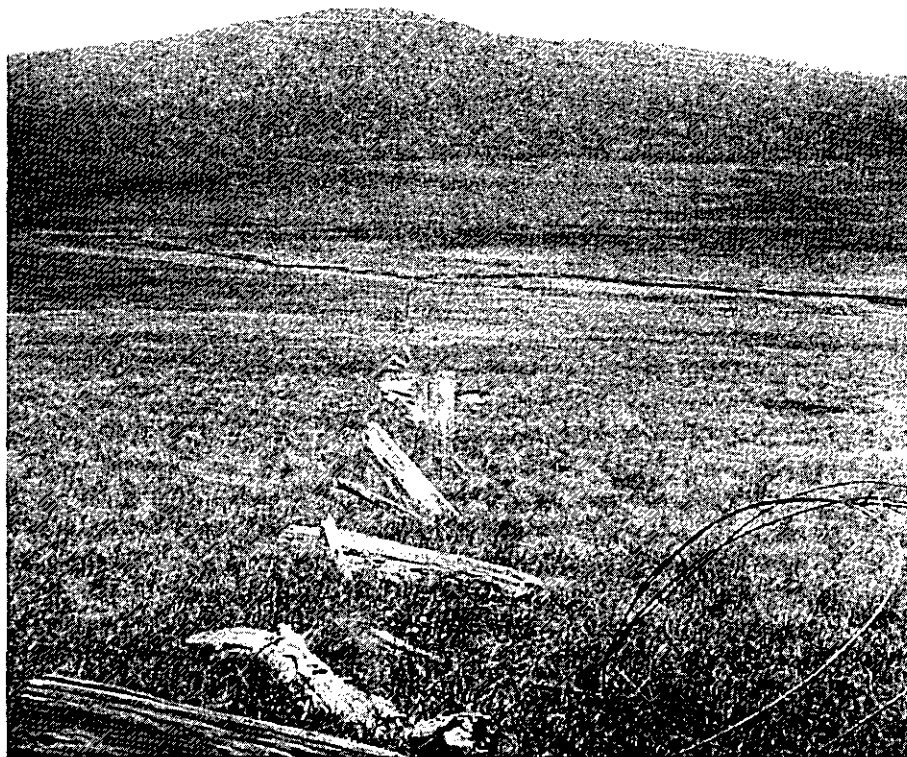
The Honourable Molly Robson
Queensland Minister of
Environment and Heritage
Department of Environment
and Heritage
160 Ann St
Brisbane City
Queensland 4000

The Honourable Paul Keating
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

New NPA members as at 1 November 1994

Penny Price	Flynn
Rod and Jennie Mackay	Holder
Debbie Worner	Downer
Thomas Heinsohn	O'Connor
Yuka Hirose	Emu Ridge
Helen and Jim Stevens	Pearce
Felicity Simmons	Cook
Catherine and Warren Williams	Weetangera
Anne Walter	Jamison Centre
Douglas and Janet Smith	Wanniassa
Margaret Daly	Binalong
Carmel Kelly	Lyneham
Laurie Dunn and Sue Elliott	Fisher
Rose-Mary Swan	Macquarie
L M Thompson	Belconnen

Kosciusko National Park



Nungar Plain, Kosciusko National Park.

Nungar Plain is one of several large frost hollow plains in the northern part of Kosciusko National Park. While being naturally treeless, such plains have invariably been enlarged due to ringbarking and clearing during the period when these areas were used for grazing. A number of reminders from this period remain such as stockmens huts and remnant fences which cross the plain.

Photo by Matthew Higgins



Pedens Camp, Kosciusko National Park.

A large number of stockmen's huts survive in Kosciusko National Park. The original Pedens Hut is associated with Archibald Peden who is also associated with Bumbalong on the Murrumbidgee River and the Horse Gully area of Namadgi National Park. A few of the grazing families from Namadgi National Park had snow leases in Kosciusko. The hut shown here dates from the 1930s.

Photo by Matthew Higgins

Over the hills and Tharwa way

*Eastern Namadgi National Park—
a driver's and walker's guide*
By Ian Fraser and Margaret
McJannet Illustrated by Helen
Fitzgerald

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I found this a very interesting and evocative guide. It reminded me quite poignantly of days gone by when my wife and I used to spend our leisure time exploring the countryside around Canberra and particularly the area covered by the guide. They were days not so very long ago when you rarely met anyone else on your outings in the area or had your way barred by locked gates. The guide provides a well informed framework for finding your way around the southern Namadgi area, a framework from which you can make many pleasant diversions on foot to find your own favourite walks and picnic places. It is not a complete guide to the area but does provide an excellent introduction.

The guide is divided into four sections complemented by a useful index. It is charmingly illustrated by the very talented Helen Fitzgerald. The 43-page introduction covers a wide field and contains some unusual information including a guide to animal droppings, something for which I have often felt a need. The body of the book is divided into three. There are two short sections on drives and short excursions and a much longer section on walks. It is very strong on botany but weaker on birds. I thought this somewhat out of balance. The recent Canberra Ornithologists Group bird atlas project produced much more information on the bird life of the area than was available formerly. Some specific information on species might usefully have been included such as olive whistlers at Smoker's Flat, yellow-eared honeyeaters on the Rendezvous and Dry Creeks, the

correct status of the fuscous honeyeater as a summer resident in open woodland and a description of the distinctive call of the wonga wonga pigeon.

I also felt that a little more social history might have been included. The often visible remains of smallholdings are indications that within quite recent times there were Australians living an almost peasant existence in these valleys. They eked out existences of real poverty and hardship, yet managed successfully to bring up families. One of the unfortunate things that has happened in the area is the way old buildings or their remains have been demolished by landholders and the ACT government. The greatest loss of all was the demolition by the landholders of the historic Bobeyan Homestead which, through lack of protection, had become a haunt of vandals and shooters.

The Yerrabi Track receives favourable mention, though it would have been appropriate to give credit to our member Reg Alder who was, more than anyone else, responsible for getting the track built. The project had a surprisingly eventful history. I originally tried in 1981 to persuade Parks and Conservation to build the track but without any success whatever. Then the NPA organised heritage walks along the line of the track and finally undertook construction in its present form as a bicentenary project. There were plenty of hurdles to be surmounted along the way. They were not all official ones!

The authors make mention of Brandy Flat Hut as one of the prettiest buildings in the southern ACT. This may well be so but in fact the building only reached its present site by accident. Wise bureaucrats originally decreed that it should be built, and built at considerable expense, at Booroomba Rocks. They

omitted, however, to ask the climbers who use Booroomba Rocks for training in the art of rock climbing whether they wanted the hut. This was not so. Climbers thought it far more appropriate to camp under canvas. And consequently one of the prettiest buildings in the southern ACT was resited to Brandy Flat.

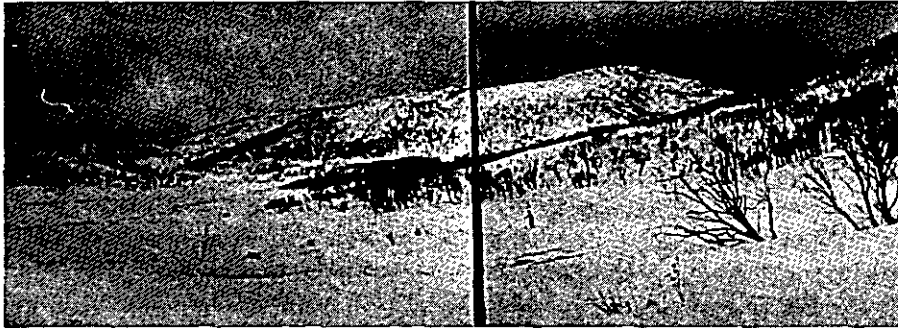
My main criticism of the guide is one not of content but of style. I am pained by the continual use of 'we' for route description. It is travel agent jargon. The impersonal or second person forms make for much more pleasant reading. And I am not enamoured of the punning title. I thought the book deserved better.

Despite some reservations over matters of detail, I consider that the authors, the artist and the conservation council are to be congratulated on producing a very useful and well thought out guide. It should help to stimulate interest in Namadgi and so help in the protection of this wonderful natural asset. The true worth of Namadgi is not yet fully appreciated by the ACT public and it is always liable to come under various kinds of threat arising from increasing and often unsuitable user demands. The more that is known about the area the better. Every member of our Association should have a copy and it will make an excellent Christmas present.

Alastair Morrison

Skis on the Brindabellas

by Matthew Higgins

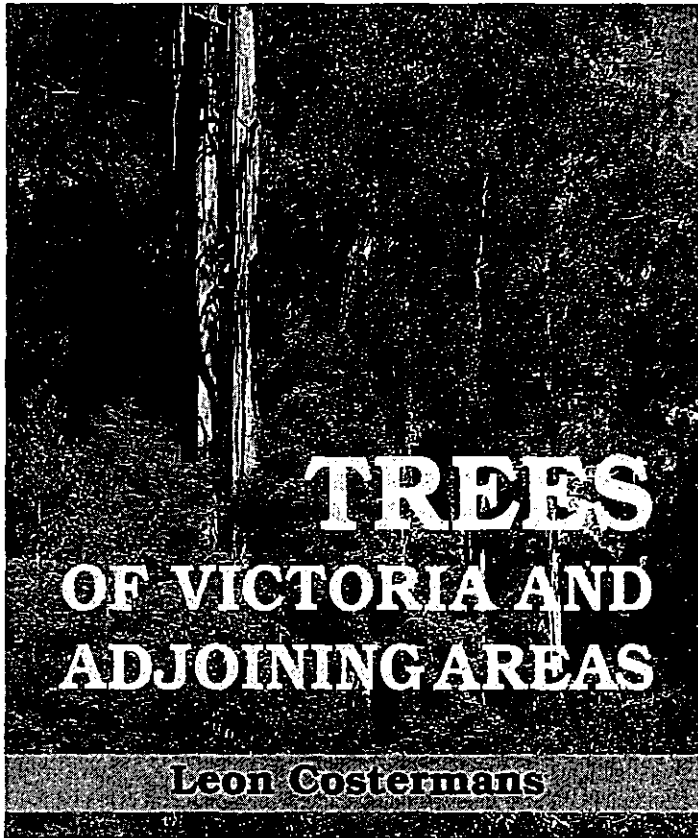


A skier runs down on to Snowy Flats while Mt Gingera beckons in the background. The photo was probably taken shortly after the 1939 bushfires. Photo from the Cumpston family collection.

Matthew's new book has now been launched. It tells, for the first time, the absorbing story of skiing on the Brindabella Range and represents a history of skiing in the Australian Capital Territory. *Skis on the Brindabellas* details how the skiers coped with access problems, the resourceful way they developed facilities, and how they enjoyed their sport in a beautiful part of the Australian high country. It also has something to say about the development of Canberra and its people. Filled with the humour, warmth and spirit of endeavour of the Brindabellas ski fraternity, and set in the context of the wider story of Australian skiing, the book is illustrated with a large and valuable collection of black and white and colour photographs. A percentage of proceeds from sales of the book will be devoted toward the conservation of Mt Franklin Chalet, built in 1938 and now the oldest surviving club-built ski lodge on the Australian mainland.

You can order the book now from Tabletop Press, 40 Miller Street, O'Connor, 2601, enclosing \$25 plus \$3 postage. Have a white Christmas!

Publication of the book is supported by a range of private, corporate and ACT government sponsors, including the ACT Cultural Council. The book will be launched by Mr Bill Wood MLA, Minister for Arts and Heritage, on Thursday 24 November 1994 at 6.00 pm. The launch will take place at Southlands Gallery, Southlands Shopping Centre, Mawson



Trees of Victoria and Adjoining Areas

by Leon Costermans

Pocket-sized field guide, 176 pages

Recommended retail price \$12

Since *Trees of Victoria* was first produced in 1966, it has become widely known as the standard introduction to the Victorian bush, having sold over 120 000 copies.

The latest edition, the fifth, is a complete revision and more than twice the size of previous editions, describing some 250 species of trees and tall shrubs—virtually all that are native to Victoria, southern New South Wales, including the ACT, and South Australia eastwards from Adelaide.

With its clear illustrations, accurate descriptions and compact format, it will continue to meet the needs of beginners in bush exploration, as well as botanical students, land managers and conservationists.

Fishloch Yards



The boulder at Fishloch Yards. Photo by Reg Alder

A further search of the Fishloch Yards area (see June 94 *Bulletin*) has located this boulder which fits Jeffris and Whelans' description of 'having a fish eye and an overhang under which four men could camp.' It also resembles the water-colour of Jeffris and Whelan except that it is not as large as the size given in their estimate. A boulder of the size they describe would be a remarkable feature of the park.

Their description of the yards reads, 'About a quarter of a mile of level ground brought us to an old fence whence the track descends past Fishloch Yards to Sawpit Creek. A few rotting timbers and a granite boulder mark their site'. The water colour of the boulder is annotated 'At Fishloch Yards'.

The boulder in the above photograph is at the end of the level portion of the saddle they passed through and the route to Sawpit Creek descends from that point. The area most likely fitting the location for a yard is the flat area at the junction of the Cotter Hut road and the Cotter Gap fire trail. An intensive search of this area has failed to disclose any remnants of a yard, which may not be surprising since sixty years ago only a few rotting timbers remained. Roadmaking could have destroyed the remaining remnants.

The yard found nearer Sawpit Creek is a little far away to be described as near the boulder, so the precise location will remain a puzzle unless some wire remnants from it are found.

Reg Alder

Malaysia

Still in Sabah, John and Judith Webster's Malaysian national parks visits draw to a close with some excursions around Sandakan and a visit to Tunku Abdul Rahman Park.

Gomantong Caves and Kinabatangan River Jungle Camp

After an overnight stay in the bustling town of Sandakan, we boarded a launch which crossed the bay and entered the estuary of the Kinabatangan River, passing a picturesque village of 'water gypsies'—originally Philipinos who had settled in the area in the 1800s. The village was like others we had seen along the river banks—wooden houses erected on stilts over the water and linked by board walks.

The next stage of our journey was by four-wheel-drive vehicle to Gomantong Caves. At a lunch stop here we were pleased to finally get a good view of some wrinkled hornbills as they flew over the tree tops. The caves themselves are noted for the swiftlet nests which are collected for the famous Chinese delicacy—bird's nest soup. We saw the long flexible bamboo ladders, coiled and stacked now as it was off season, used when harvesting the nests.

Another drive and short boat trip brought us to a jungle camp which consisted of riverside chalets and communal dining area.

In the late afternoon we set off in small motor boats to 'putt-putt' up a tributary creek in search of proboscis monkeys. Our local guide, Jun, soon spotted some of these strange creatures, feeding high in the forest canopy. The males have extremely large noses to attract the females. These monkeys also have large bellies as their digestive system, we were told, consists of a double chamber to filter out poisonous substances in their leaf diet. We also saw pig-tailed and long-tailed macaques and a tiny pygmy squirrel.

—parks and people



Early morning on Kinabatangan River

Jun was excellent at imitating animal and bird calls and recognising birds. This was a real bonus and we were delighted when he identified for us a storm stork, stork-billed kingfisher, oriental darter, paradise flycatcher (with its long trailing tail feathers) black and red broadbill and a couple of raptors, namely a Brahminy kite and Jensen's baza.

Back at the camp we enjoyed a splendid seafood meal and then Jun took out his guitar and serenaded us whilst we sat on the verandah and watched a hazy, full moon rise and gleam over the mist-wreathed expanse of the Kinabatangan River. It was wonderfully peaceful and we were reluctant to have to leave this great river at dawn the next morning.

Sepilok Forest Reserve/ Orang Utan Sanctuary

This 4440 hectare forest reserve is a 20 minute drive from Sandakan and its most interesting feature is the Orang Utan Sanctuary. Here, these ginger-haired apes who have strayed into logging camps or been confiscated from the illegal pet trade are rehabilitated to return to their natural forest environment. A nurs-

ery area is rigged out with poles and ropes and young orang utans are taught to climb and swing. In another area, a board walk leads to a viewing area near a high tree platform where the apes are fed by rangers. They are fed only bananas so that they will learn to forage for themselves to find the other food needed in their diet.

One young orang utan loitered near the board walk, enjoying the



Orang Utan at Sepilok Sanctuary

attention of tourists and fixing us with a melancholy and thoughtful gaze which, judging by the stories we heard, probably concealed a mischievous streak!

Tunku Abdul Rahman Park

'Five paradisaical islands' seemed a rather dreamy description for these islands, which are only 10 to 25 minutes away from Kota Kinabalu by speedboat, but then we had the opportunity to assess only one island, Sapi, which was quite small. Here I felt pleased that I had gained a little more confidence with snorkelling and was able to view many fish, though not much coral. The larger island of Gaya boasts diverse coral and marine life.

The last few days of our stay in Malaysia were spent in a luxurious beach resort where we gently unwound after our various adventures. The morning came for our departure and a fierce tropical storm lashed the coastline, delaying our flight by a couple of hours and giving us a feel for the fiercer aspect of life in the tropics!

*Story and photos by
Judith Webster*

Calendar

DECEMBER

Thursday 1 Committee meeting, venue to be arranged

Thursday 8 Namadgi Subcommittee 7.30pm, 27 Aston St, Cook, Steven Forst, 274 8426(w), 251 6817(h)

Sunday 11 NPA Christmas Party 3.00pm, Orroral Valley picnic ground

JANUARY

Thursday 19 Environment Subcommittee 7.45pm, for location contact Stephen Johnston, 254 3738(h)

FEBRUARY

Thursday 2 Committee meeting 7.30pm, for location contact Clive Hurlston, 288 6577

Thursday 9 Namadgi Subcommittee 7.30pm, for location contact Steven Forst, 251 6817(h), 274 8426 (w)

Thursday 23 Environment Subcommittee 7.45pm, for location contact Stephen Johnston, 254 3738(h)

MARCH

Thursday 2 Committee meeting 7.30pm, for location contact Clive Hurlston, 288 6577

Thursday 9 Namadgi Subcommittee 7.30pm, for location contact Steven Forst, 251 6817(h), 274 8426 (w)

Thursday 23 Environment Subcommittee 7.45pm, for location contact Stephen Johnston, 254 3738(h)

NPA Bulletin

If undelivered please return to:
National Parks Association of the ACT
PO Box 1940 Chifley ACT 2606

Print Post Approved
P 248831/00041

SURFACE
MAIL

General meetings

Held at 8pm, Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Civic

Sunday 11 December at 3pm. NPA Christmas party

Meet at Orroral Valley picnic ground for the annual NPA Christmas get-together. Members and friends welcome. Bring a picnic tea.

Thursday 16 February: Writing for children

Our vice-president, Eleanor Stodart, will talk about her experiences in nature study books for children over the past 20 years.

Thursday 16 March: The sustainable use of timber

Alan Davy from ACT Forests will talk about the sustainable use of forest resources, with particular focus on Canberra and its use of firewood.

Thursday 20 April: Travels in the Camargue

NPA member, Elizabeth Smith, will show slides of the fascinating wetland environment on the Rhône Delta. She will explore the interactions of conflicting land uses.

Outings program

December to March 1995



Outings guide

- Day walks** carry lunch, drinks and protective clothing.
Pack walks two or more days, carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER BY WEDNESDAY.
Car camps facilities often limited or non-existent. vehicles taken to site can be used for camping. BOOK EARLY WITH LEADER.

Other activities include nature rambles, environmental and field guide studies and ski tours.

Walks gradings

Distance grading (per day)

- 1 - up to 10 km
- 2 - 10 km to 15 km
- 3 - 15 km to 20 km
- 4 - above 20 km

Terrain grading

- A - Road, firetrail, track
- B - Open forest
- C - Light scrub
- D - Patches of thick scrub, regrowth
- E - Rock scrambling
- F - Exploratory.

The walks program contains additional information. If necessary, contact the leader.

Third Wednesday of every month

Phone Phyl Goddard on 254 8279(h) or NPA office on 282 5813 for details.

3/4 December Pack Walk Gungartan Area

2/A/C/E

Ref: Khancoban 1:50000
Kosciusko 1:50000
Phone: 241 2330(h)

Leader: Mick Kelly

Contact leader by the previous Wednesday (23/11/94) numbers limited. Leave Canberra Friday, by 4pm and if possible walk to Disappointment Spur Hut in evening. Saturday proceed to Schlink Pass, Gungartan, Tin Hut and maybe as far as Mawson's Hut. Return via Mawson's, to Schlink Pass across the Kerries and back to cars on the Sunday. If folks are interested, will convert to a three day walk and take in the Rollin Grounds, Consett Stephen Pass and Mt Tate on the Monday. Low impact camping; however may use huts if weather not good. Good gear required. 480km, \$96 per car plus park entry fee.

4 December Sunday Canoe Trip Yass River Gorge

Leader: Brian Palm

Phone: 248 9245(h)

This is a joint NPA/Canberra Bushwalking Club trip. Easy day trip on Lake Burrinjuck, starting from Woolgarlo on the Yass River arm of the Lake heading north west through Devils Pass into the Yass River for lunch. Woolgarlo is 90 minutes drive from Civic

6/11 December Ranger Pack

Hard

High Country cross over

Ref: Kosciusko 1:100000

Guthega to Mt Selwyn

Tantangara 1:100000

Leader: Peter Tedder

Phone: 282 1711(h)

A six day FBI walk along the main ridge and alpine heath lands of the Kosciusko National Park. The walk features spring and alpine flowers and huts which will form the daily objectives. We plan to visit Tin, Mawson, Cesjack, Mackeys, Boobie, Brooks and Broken Dam with possible side trips to Valentines and Happys Huts. If insufficient numbers prevent a cross over, then the route will be modified or we will arrange collection on a commercial basis. Please ring Peter by 21 November. Total walking about 70km

10/11 December Weekend Canoe Trip Murrumbidgee

Leaders: Jill Roberts

Phone: 249 1390(h)

Brian Palm

Phone: 248 9245(h)

This is a joint NPA/Canberra Bushwalking Club trip. Whitewater/flat water trip from Childowlah, through Jugiong to Gundagai over 2 days. Up to grade 2 rapids. Distance will vary with water level. If you can handle the pace and the lovely beaches contact the leaders by the previous Wednesday. 320km, \$80 per car.

11 December Sunday Christmas Party

Orroral Valley

Ref: Rendezvous Creek 1:25000

Leader: New president

Phone: 282 5813 (office)

Meet at Orroral Valley picnic ground at 3pm for the annual NPA Christmas get together. Members and friends welcome, bring a picnic tea.

17 December Saturday Walk

2/A/B/C

Orroral Ridge and Valley

Ref: Corin Dam 1:25000

Leader: Stephen Johnston

Phone: 254 3738(h)

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8am. From the site of Hon-ey-suckle Collimation Tower, traverse the ridge above Orroral Valley past massive granite tors to Emu Flat. Descend to Booroomba Creek Valley and down the Orroral Valley for a 400 metre climb back to the cars. A long and challenging (particularly the last climb), but rewarding walk. 90km, \$18 per car.

Saturday 14 January 1995

1/A/B

Charles Lane-Poole Memorial Walk,

Namadgi National Park

Ref: ACT 1:100000

Leader: Mathew Higgins

Phone: 247 7285

Contact leader for bookings and information. The walk commemorates the pre-Franklin Road 1930s bushwalks along the Sandbellas by CE Lane-Poole, the head of the Australian Forestry School and the inaugural President of the Canberra Alpine Club which built Mt Franklin Chalet. We shall scale Mts Aggie, Franklin, and the skiers' Little Ginini. About 10 kms on and off track. Short car shuttle.

18 January Wednesday Walk

Phone Phyl Goddard on 254 8279(h) or NPA office on 282 5813 for details.

21 January Saturday Walk 1/A
Mt Majura to Mt Ainslie evening meander,
Canberra Nature Park ACT 1:10000
Leader: Leonie Bubb Phone: 248 6769(h)
Meet at carpark at rear of War Memorial at 6.00 pm (late to beat the heat). A short car shuttle, followed by a pleasant wander along the trails that cross the Majura-Ainslie spine. Bring a picnic tea to eat on the way. A glass of champagne or a cup of tea or coffee will be available in nearby Reid to celebrate the completion of the walk, while drivers pick up their cars at the Majura end. Drive about 5km, no charge.

26-29 January (and possibly 30th) 4/D/F
Joint weekend pack walk with Family Bush walkers.
Ettrema Cabbage Tree Creeks, Ref:Tuga, Yar
Morton National Park Burrier 1:25 000
Leaders: Pat and Eric Pickering Phone: 286 2128(h)
Four to five day walk in this interesting and remote area. Rock scrambling, swimming, magnificent views. Five days preferred but leaders happy with four if most participants want. If interested please contact **as soon as possible** to discuss dates and plans. 375km, \$75 per car.

4 February Saturday Walk 2/A/E
Big Hole, Marble Arch, Ref: Araluen 1:100000
Deua National Park
Leader: Phil Bubb Phone: 248 6769(h) 275 8028(w)
Meet at Canberra Railway Station at 8.30 am. A pleasant walk on tracks to two of the most spectacular geological sights near Canberra. We may have to wade the Shoalhaven River and walk through water in the Marble Arch. The limestone gorge is very slippery and care with young children would be needed near the Big Hole. Drive about 200km, cost per car about \$40.

4 February Weekend Pack Walk 1/A
Goodradigbee River, Wee Jasper Ref: ACT 1:100000
Leader: Fiona Brand Phone: 247 9538(h)
Contact leader by Wednesday for details. a relaxing and easy weekend on the Goodradigbee River near Nicalong creek. Great campsite with swimming. 160km, \$32 per car.

12 February Sunday Walk 2/A
The Corn Trail, Ref: Araluen/
Buckenbowra State Forest Monga 1:25000
Leader: Mike Smith Phone: 286 2984(h), 248 3624(w)
Meet at Queanbeyan swimming pool carpark at 8.00 am. The walking track follows the original pack horse route over the Clyde Mountain. A 650m descent from the top of the Clyde Mt to Buckenbowra River. Car shuffle or cross over depending on conditions and numbers. 240km drive, \$48 per car.

15 February Wednesday Walk
Phone Phyl Goddard on 254 8279 (h) or NPA office on 282 5813 for details.

19 February Sunday Walk 2/A/C/D
Unnamed Creek and Shanahan's Mountain,
Namadgi National Park Ref: Colinton 1:25000
Leaders: Jack Smart Phone: 248 8171(h) 249 2191(w)
Phil Bubb Phone: 248 6769(h) 275 8028(w)
Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.00 am. A walk from Shanahan's Mountain track car park, down a beautiful creek with fairly open bush, past waterfalls to a junction with Naas Creek at 820289. Return by ridges in medium bush to Shanahan's mountain and by track back to the starting point. 90km, \$18 per car.

25 February Saturday Walk 2/A/C
Ginini to Mt Gingera,
Namadgi National Park Ref: (1:25000)
Leader: Martin Chalk Phone: 292 3502 (h)
Meet at Kambah Village at 8.00 am. From Ginini car park, walk to Mt Gingera (mainly on tracks) and return via Snowy Flats. A moderate walk through an attractive area with a variety with fine views from Mt Gingera. 175km, \$35 per car.

5 March Sunday Wander 1/A
National Botanic Gardens
Leader: Doreen Wilson Phone: 288 5215(h)
Meet at the Visitor Information Centre at 9.30 am. Tour the 'back fence' of the Gardens and have morning tea near the bark hut. We shall pause from time to time to observe the birdlife.

11-12 March Weekend Pack Walk 2/A/B
Quilty Mountain Circuit,
Morton National Park Ref: Endrick 1:25000
Leader: Mike Smith Phone 286 2984(h) 248 3624(w)
Contact leader by Wednesday for details. A walk from the Nerriga entrance to the Budawangs National Park to Styles Creek to set up camp about lunchtime. Afternoon side trip into Hidden Valley. Sunday, circuit around Quilty Mountain through the Vines with side trips to the Aboriginal Bora Ground and Quilty's Pass. 250km drive, \$50 per car

15 March Wednesday Walk
Phone Phyl Goddard on 254 8279(h) or NPA office on 282 5813 for details.

18 March Saturday Walk 2/A
Murrumbidgee Corridor, Ref: ACT 1:100000
Canberra Nature Park
Leader: Phil Bubb Phone: 248 6769(h) 275 8028(w)
Meet at Kambah Pool top car park at 9.00 am. Walk along the track above the Murrumbidgee River to Casuarina Sands. Short car shuttle.

20 March Canberra Day
Lawns opposite the Old Parliament House
ACT Alive Exhibition
Coordinator: Doreen Wilson Phone: 288 5215(h)
We are asking members to help the NPA by calling in to our tent and spending up to a couple of hours answering questions about the Association and its aims, and about the display. You will have an opportunity to see the other interesting stalls at this popular exhibition.

25-26 March Weekend Pack Walk 2/A/C
Mount Kelly, Ref: Rendezvous Creek,
Namadgi National Park Yaouk 1:25000
Leader: Frank Clements Phone: 231 7005(h)
Contact leader by Wednesday for details. Pack walk to Mt Kelly through Gudgenby Saddle and along Naas and Sams Creeks. Mostly by fire trail, but some off track walking. Cooking stoves are preferred, but not essential. 100km, \$20 per car.

Points to note

Please help keep our outings program alive by volunteering to lead outings. New leaders are welcome. The outings covenor is happy to suggest locations suitable for a walk if you do not have something in mind yourself. Feel free to send in suggestions for outings to the association's office as soon as you think of them, with a suggested date.

All persons joining an outing of the National Parks Association of the ACT do so as volunteers in all respects and as such accept sole responsibility for any injury howsoever incurred and the National Parks Association of the ACT, its office bearers and appointed leaders are absolved from any liability in respect of injury or damage suffered whilst engaged in any such outing.

The committee suggests a donation of TWENTY cents per kilometre DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS in the car, including the driver, (to the nearest dollar) be offered to the driver by each passenger accepting transport. Drive and walk distances quoted in the program are approximate distances for return journeys.